

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/718,395

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

BIANCHINI, CRAIG A.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed March 26, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18 and 21-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. The application has been amended as follows:

After the Title--

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/917,337 filed July 27, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,752,903 ~~which has been allowed~~.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18 and 21-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 18 and 24 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for improving a wood pulping process having displacement batch digestion, wherein a pulp washing fluid is passed through filtration media to remove high molecular weight organics from the fluid, and then the treated fluid is used to displace hot black liquor.

Claims 21 and 25 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for improving a wood pulping process having pulp dilution, wherein a pulp washing fluid is passed through filtration media to remove high molecular weight organics from the fluid, and then the treated fluid is used to dilute pulp.

Art Unit: 1731

Claims 22 and 26 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for improving a wood pulping process having multi-stage fiber washing, wherein a pulp washing fluid is passed through filtration media to remove high molecular weight organics from the fluid, and then the treated fluid is used to wash fiber in a stage preceding the stage from which the washing fluid was withdrawn.

Claims 23 and 27 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for improving a wood pulping process that includes successive steps of washing/oxygen delignification/washing, wherein a pulp washing fluid is passed through filtration media to remove high molecular weight organics from the fluid, and then the treated fluid is used for washing or pulp dilution in connection with the oxygen delignification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

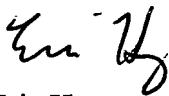
Applicant's arguments filed March 26, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 18 and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fremont (US 4,226,673 and US 3,758,405) has been withdrawn. It is recognized that Fremont teaches ultrafiltration for removal of color bodies from Kraft mill effluent streams for the purpose of reducing the amount of discharged contaminants. Fremont does not suggest treating and reusing a washing fluid to improve the efficiency of particular wood pulping processes through increased concentration gradients for mass transfer, nor does Fremont suggest utilizing the reusable permeate disclosed therein in any manner as claimed.

Art Unit: 1731

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Eric Hug
Primary Examiner